



BARBARA DITTRICH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 38th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

May 21st, 2020

The Honorable Tony Evers
Office of the Governor
Room 115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Governor Evers,

I am reaching out today to share concerns I have received from constituents regarding the lack of attention to our senior residents of the State of Wisconsin. It is heartening to see you move forward with deployment of the funds received from the federal CARES Act. This is a “team lift” when it comes to an issue like COVID-19.

However, senior citizens in the 38th Assembly District are expressing that they feel they are not receiving adequate attention from our state government. As you know, the statistics presented by the Wisconsin DHS display that individuals over the age of 60 comprise the largest category of those hospitalized, placed in intensive care, or who have lost their lives to this diagnosis.

Constituents have expressed to me their dismay that while your administration has aggressively sought to test all Wisconsin prisoners, our seniors are not treated in a similar fashion. While I see your reasoning behind prison testing, shouldn’t we at least be revering our elderly, most vulnerable Wisconsinites as well?

To the public’s knowledge, no best practices or protocols have been put in place to assure those being admitted to a senior care facility have not tested positive before they are admitted. Additionally, the regional testing sites provided by the state may not be accessible to our seniors.

I would hate to see the mistakes of other states repeated in Wisconsin when we can take steps to ensure the most vulnerable populations can be tested and protected.

My questions, directed to you and your administration, are how much of the \$1 billion in CARES Act funding do you intend to use for testing devoted towards testing senior citizens, residents at senior care facilities, and staff who work at those facilities? Additionally, how much

of the \$150 million you are intending to spend on PPE will be designated to nursing home or senior care facilities? What protocols and recommendations are being made to address the issues in nursing homes?

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Dittrich". The ink is a light grey or blue color.

Barbara Dittrich
State Representative
38th Assembly District